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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5369
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES PRIORITY
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 0437
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0752
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0448
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0082
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0168
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UNCLAS WARSAW 002131

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SUBJECT: POLISH SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT IN BURMA

REF: SECSTATE 142626

1. (SBU) On October 18, PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Krzysztof Ciebien, Minister Counselor for MFA, Asia department. Ciebien stated

that in addition to Poland's statement expressing concerns over the developments in Burma, the Government of Poland has raised the issue with

various representatives from the region. He noted, for example, that the MFA raised the issue with the Burmese Ambassador posted in Berlin,

who is accredited to Poland, when he was recently in Warsaw, and with the new Chinese Ambassador during his courtesy calls.

2. (SBU) In the past month, Poland has provided 100,000 USD to assist Burmese refugees in Thailand via the Red Cross. Poland does not have any other bilateral aid programs in Burma. Ciebien reiterated Poland's role in promoting democracy through the EU and noted that he just returned from Brussels, where EU members approved the revised sanctions on the regime, in areas such as timber and gems.

3. (SBU) Ciebien was eager to hear more about U.S. initiatives and plans in Burma, specifically on strategies of engagement with various groups and plans for democratic transition. He also requested any additional information on the progress/success of U.S. assistance, such as the Global Human Rights Defenders Fund. Post will work with EAP/MLS to respond to this request.

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